

Amendments to the ABSTRACT**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention includes a genetic construct and a mutant dengue virus, designated as strain MBU 01-2002, which is a mutant dengue virus generated by genetic modification of the 13-amino acid sequence just proximal to the pr-M junction within the prM coding region of the genome. The modification involves increasing the number of positively charged amino acid acids and abolishing the negatively charged amino acid acids in this pr-M junction sequence. The mutant dengue virus strain MBU 01-2002 possesses less prM protein on the viral envelope than the prototype dengue virus, is capable of inducing infected C6/36 cells to fuse at neutral pH, is as efficient as the prototype virus in the intracellular multiplication, but is defective in its release from infected cells.